

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REPEAT OF USIS RIDER POLL ON INDOCHINA REACTIONS

REF: TOKYO 5430

SUMMARY: MAY 2 SANKEI SHIMBUN TELEPHONE POLL OF 963 URBAN RESPONDENTS TOKYO AND OSAKA REPEATED FOR USIS TWO RIDER QUESTIONS ON JAPANESE REACTIONS TO INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS WHICH POST HAD PLACED ON SIMILAR APRIL 21 POLL (REPORTED REFTEL). PROPORTION WHO THOUGHT INDOCHINA EVENTS SIGNIFICANT TO JAPAN'S FUTURE INCREASED FROM JUST UNDER HALF TO ALMOST 60 PERCENT. IMPACT OF EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA INCREASED ON ALL ELEMENTS OF SAMPLE, EVEN THOSE PREVIOUSLY UNAWARE OR UNCERTAIN. PROPORTION CONSIDERING THAT U.S. CANNOT BE TRUSTED AND PERCENTAGE ANTICIPATING FURTHER AGGRESSIVENESS BY COMMUNISTS BOTH INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. PROPORTION OF SAMPLE FEELING JAPAN SHOULD BE MORE CONCILIATORY TOWARD HANOI CHANGED LITTLE. CONCERNS ABOUT EFFECT UPON JAPAN'S DEFENSE AND POSSIBLE ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT CHANGED ONLY SLIGHTLY. END SUMMARY.

1. FALL OF SAIGON AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS APPEAR TO HAVE HAD MUCH GREATER IMPACT UPON THE JAPANESE CONSCIOUSNESS THAN DANANG, PHNOM PENH, AND OTHER EARLIER EVENTS IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. BETWEEN APRIL 21 AND MAY 2, PROPORTION POLLED BY SANKEI WHO THOUGHT THAT RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA COULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON JAPAN'S FUTURE ROSE FROM JUST UNDER HALF (48.4 PERCENT) TO 59.9 PERCENT. "DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION" DECREASED SHARPLY, FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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35.5 PERCENT TO 24.4 PERCENT. "NO" ANSWERS REMAINED NEARLY SAME,

DECLINING SLIGHTLY FROM 16.1 PERCENT TO 15.7 PERCENT.

2. INCREASE IN CONCERN OVER INDOCHINA ROSE IN ALL SOCIAL GROUPS POLLED. HOUSEWIVES AND THOSE SUPPORTING NO POLITICAL PARTY, BOTH PREDOMINANTLY "DON'T KNOWS" APRIL 21, SHIFTED TO SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITIES (58 AND 56 PERCENT) EXPRESSING CONCERN MAY 2. ONLY FEMALES UNDER 20 STILL SHOWED LESS THAN 50 PERCENT YES RESPONSE. GROUPS WHICH EARLIER INCLUDED HIGH PROPORTIONS EXPRESSING CONCERN SHOWED REDUCTION IN DON'T KNOWS AND FURTHER INCREASE IN THOSE CONCERNED, RISING TO 72.2 PERCENT FOR COLLEGE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES (61.2 PERCENT ON APRIL 21) AND 81.3 PERCENT FOR EXECUTIVE/PROFESSIONALS (FROM 69.2 PERCENT).

3. RESPONSES TO MULTIPLE-ANSWER QUESTION ON IMPLICATIONS INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS FOR JAPAN SHOWED INCREASE IN DISTRUST TOWARD BOTH UNITED STATES AND COMMUNISTS. THOSE WHO MENTIONED "THE U.S. CANNOT BE RELIED UPON" INCREASED FROM 8.5 PERCENT OF TOTAL SAMPLE APRIL 21 TO 14.4 PERCENT MAY 2. THOSE WHO FELT RECENT EVENTS "COULD ENCOURAGE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TO BE MORE AGGRESSIVE TOWARD OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES" INCREASED FROM 16.6 PERCENT TO 21.7 PERCENT. IN CONTRAST, THOSE WHO SELECTED "COULD MAKE IT NECESSARY FOR JAPAN TO TAKE A MORE CONCILIATORY STANCE TOWARD NORTH VIETNAM" INCREASED ONLY SLIGHTLY, FROM 22.4 PERCENT OF TOTAL SAMPLE TO 23.7 PERCENT.

4. INCREASES IN SKEPTICISM TOWARD U.S.A. TOOK PLACE, TO SLIGHTLY VARYING DEGREES, IN ALL AUDIENCE CATEGORIES. SIMILARLY, ALL AUDIENCE CATEGORIES (EXCEPT THOSE SUPPORTING KOMEITO) INCREASED IN EXPECTATIONS OF COMMUNIST AGGRESSIVENESS. LARGEST INCREASES IN THOSE ANTICIPATING COMMUNIST AGGRESSIVENESS WERE AMONG SUPPORTERS OF JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY (RISING FROM 11.2 PERCENT TO 19.4 PERCENT) AND JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY (FROM 3.1 PERCENT TO 28.6 PERCENT).

5. LARGE PART OF MODEST INCREASE IN THOSE FAVORING CONCILIATION TOWARD HANOI CONSISTED OF HOUSEWIVES: THOSE SELECTING THIS RESPONSE ROSE TO 20.6 PERCENT, FROM 12.0 PERCENT APRIL 21. SUPPORTERS OF KOMEITO, DSP, AND JCP WERE LESS INCLINED MAY 2 TO FEEL JAPAN SHOULD CONCILIATE HANOI. FOR JCP, PROPORTION CHOOSING THIS RESPONSE FELL FROM 25.0 TO 17.1 PERCENT. EXECUTIVE/PROFESSIONAL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES BOTH SHOWED SLIGHT

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DECREASES IN SELECTION CONCILIATORY RESPONSE.

6. FALL OF SAIGON WAS NOT, HOWEVER, INTERPRETED AS RELATING DIRECTLY TO SECURITY OF JAPAN. THOSE WHO INDICATED "COULD HAVE AN DANGEROUS EFFECT ON THE DEFENSE OF JAPAN" ROSE ONLY SLIGHTLY, FROM 10.3 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL SAMPLE TO 10.7 PERCENT. SEVERAL KEY AUDIENCE CATEGORIES (COLLEGE GRADUATES, EXECUTIVE/PROFESSIONALS, LDP SUPPORTERS) WERE SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED ABOUT

JAPAN'S DEFENSE MAY 2 THAN THEY HAD BEEN APRIL 21. ANXIETY ABOUT JAPAN'S DEFENSE ROSE MOST STRIKINGLY AMONG DSP SUPPORTERS (FROM 6.5 PERCENT TO 20.5 PERCENT) AND JCP SUPPORTERS (ALMOST DOUBLING, FROM 6.3 PERCENT TO 11.4 PERCENT).

7. ANTICIPATIONS THAT INDOCHINA WOULD HAVE UNFAVORABLE ECONOMIC EFFECTS ON JAPAN LITTLE VANGED: PROPORTION CHOOSING THIS ALTERNATIVE INCREASED FROM 14.6 PERCENT TO 16.3 PERCENT.

8. TOTALS AND DEMOS BREAKS SEPTTEL.
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